

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5030.1L

From: Secretary of the Navy  
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: CLASSIFICATION OF NAVAL SHIPS  
AND CRAFT

Ref: (a) Defense Intelligence  
Agency DST-1200Z-545-90,  
Subj: Glossary of Naval Ships  
Types (GNST) (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Combatant Ship Category  
(2) Auxiliary Ship Category  
(3) Combatant Craft Category  
(4) Support Craft Category  
(5) Ship Categories

1. Purpose. To issue a listing of ship categories and classifications of naval ships and craft contained in enclosures (1) through (4). Enclosure (5) depicts the overall structural organization of the ship and craft categories. This instruction has been revised substantially and should be reviewed accordingly.

2. Cancellation. SECNAV Instruction 5030.1K.

3. Special Instructions

a. The objectives of the grouping of categories and subcategories is to provide a means for valid comparisons of naval forces of other countries.

b. Letter prefixes shall be used in conjunction with classification symbols, as follows:

T—To indicate that a government-owned or bareboat-chartered ship is assigned to Commander, Military Sealift Command (MSC) as a type commander.

F—To indicate that a ship is being constructed for a foreign government.

W—To indicate a Coast Guard Ship.

c. The letter “N”, when used as the last letter of a ship classification symbol, denotes nuclear propulsion. When used as the last letter of a service craft classification, it indicates a non self-propelled version of a similar self-propelled service craft.

d. Parentheses shall not be used to separate any letters in classification symbols.

e. Reference (a) will be used for additional standardized ship classifications.

F. B. KELSO, II  
Secretary of the Navy (Acting)

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COMBATANT SHIP CATEGORYA. WARSHIP CLASSIFICATION1. Aircraft Carrier Type

All ships designed primarily for the purpose of conducting combat operations by aircraft which engage in attacks against airborne, surface, sub-surface and shore targets.

a. CTOL (Conventional Take Off and Landing Aircraft Carriers)

Multi-purpose Aircraft Carrier	CV
Multi-purpose Aircraft Carrier (Nuclear-Propulsion)	CVN

2. Surface Combatant Type

Large, heavily armed, surface ships which are designed primarily to engage enemy forces on the high seas.

a. Battleships

Battleship	BB
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b. Cruisers

Guided Missile Cruiser	CG
Guided Missile Cruiser (Nuclear-Propulsion)	CGN

c. Destroyers

Destroyer	DD
Guided Missile Destroyer	DDG

d. Frigates

Frigate	FF
Guided Missile Frigate	FFG
Frigate (Reserve Training)	FFT

3. Submarine Type

All self-propelled submersible types regardless of whether employed as combatant, auxiliary, or research and development vehicles which have at least a residual combat capability.

Enclosure (1)

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a. Attack Submarines

Submarine (Nuclear-Powered) SSN

b. Ballistic Missile Submarines

Ballistic Missile Submarine (Nuclear-Powered) SSBN

B. Other Combatant Classification

1. Patrol Combatant Type

Combatants whose mission may extend beyond coastal duties and whose characteristics include adequate endurance and sea keeping to provide a capability for operations exceeding 48 hours on the high seas without support.

a. Patrol Ships

Patrol Combatant Missile (Hydrofoil) PHM

2. Amphibious Warfare Type Ships

All ships having organic capability for amphibious assault and which have characteristics enabling long duration operations on the high seas.

a. Amphibious Helicopter/Landing Craft Carriers

Amphibious Assault Ship (General Purpose)	LHA
Amphibious Assault Ship (Multi-Purpose)	LHD
Amphibious Transport Dock	LPD
Amphibious Assault Ship (Helicopter)	LPH

b. Landing Craft Carriers

Amphibious Cargo Ship	LKA
Dock Landing Ship	LSD
Tank Landing Ship	LST

c. Miscellaneous

Amphibious Command Ship	LCC
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3. Combat Logistics Type Ships

Ships which have the capability to provide underway replenishment to fleet units.

a. Underway Replenishment

Ammunition Ship	AE
Store Ship	AF
Combat Store Ship	AFS
Oiler	AO
Fast Combat Support Ship	AOE
Replenishment Oiler	AOR

4. Mine Warfare Type Ships

All ships whose primary function is mine warfare on the high seas.

a. Minesweepers

Minesweeper - Ocean	MSO
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b. Mine Countermeasures Ships

Mine Countermeasures Ship	MCM
Mine Countermeasures Support Ship	MCS
Minehunter, Coastal	MHC

5. Coastal Defense Ships

All ships whose primary function is coastal patrol and interdiction.

a. Special Warfare

Patrol, Coastal	PC
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AUXILIARY SHIP CATEGORYA. AUXILIARY CLASSIFICATION1. Mobile Logistics Type Ships

Ships which have the capability to provide direct material support to other deployed units operating far from home base.

a. Material Support

Destroyer Tender	AD
Repair Ship	AR
Submarine Tender	AS

2. Support Type Ships

A grouping of ships designed to operate in the open ocean in a variety of sea states to provide general support to either combatant forces or shore based establishments. (Includes smaller auxiliaries which by the nature of their duties, leave inshore waters).

a. Fleet Support

Salvage Ship	ARS
Submarine Rescue Ship	ASR
Fleet Ocean Tug	ATF
Salvage and Rescue Ship	ATS

b. Other Auxiliaries

Auxiliary Crane Ship	ACS
Auxiliary General	AG
Deep Submergence Support Ship	AGDS
Miscellaneous Command Ship	AGF
Auxiliary General Frigate	AGFF
Missile Range Instrumentation Ship	AGM
Oceanographic Research Ship	AGOR
Ocean Surveillance Ship	AGOS
Surveying Ship	AGS
Auxiliary Research Submarine	AGSS
Hospital Ship	AH
Cargo Ship	AK
Auxiliary Cargo Barge/Lighter Ship	AKB
Auxiliary Cargo Float-On/Float-Off Ship	AKF
Vehicle Cargo Ship	AKR
Gasoline Tanker	AOG
Transport Oiler	AOT
Transport	AP
Cable Repairing Ship	ARC
Aviation Logistic Support Ship	AVB
Auxiliary Aircraft Landing Training Ship	AVT

Enclosure (2)

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COMBATANT CRAFT CATEGORYA. COMBATANT CRAFT CLASSIFICATION1. PATROL TYPE CRAFT

Surface patrol craft intended for use relatively near the coast or in sheltered waters or rivers.

a. Coastal Patrol Combatants

Patrol Boat	PB
Patrol Craft (Fast)	PCF
Fast Patrol Craft	PTF

b. River/Roadstead Craft

Mini-Armored Troop Carrier	ATC
River Patrol Craft	PBR

2. Amphibious Warfare Type Craft

All amphibious craft which have the organic capacity for amphibious assault and are intended to operate principally in coastal waters or may be carried aboard larger units.

a. Landing Craft

Landing Craft, Air Cushion	LCAC
Landing Craft, Mechanized	LCM
Landing Craft, Personnel, Large	LCPL
Landing Craft, Utility	LCU
Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel	LCVP
Amphibious Warping Tug	LWT
Side Loadable Warping Tug	SLWT

b. Special Warfare Craft

Light Seal Support Craft	LSSC
Medium Seal Support Craft	MSSC
Swimmer Delivery Vehicle	SDV
Special Warfare Craft, Light	SWCL
Special Warfare Craft, Medium	SWCM

Enclosure (3)

SUPPORT CRAFT CATEGORY

A. SUPPORT CRAFT CLASSIFICATION

1. Service Type Craft

A grouping of navy-subordinated craft (including non-self-propelled) designed to provide general support to either combatant forces or shore-based establishments.

a. Dry Docks (Non-self-propelled)

Large Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock	AFDB
Small Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock	AFDL
Medium Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock	AFDM
Auxiliary Repair Dry Dock	ARD
Medium Auxiliary Repair Dry Dock	ARDM
Yard Floating Dry Dock	YFD

b. Tugs (Self-propelled)

Large Harbor Tug	YTB
Small Harbor Tug	YTL
Medium Harbor Tug	YTM

c. Tankers (Self-propelled)

Fuel Oil Barge	YO
Gasoline Barge	YOG
Water Barge	YW

d. Lighters and Barges

(1) Self-propelled

Causeway Section, Powered	CSP
Covered Lighter	YF
Refrigerated Covered Lighter	YFR
Harbor Utility Craft	YFU
Garbage Lighter	YG

(2) Non-self-propelled

Causeway Section, Non-Powered	CSNP
Open Lighter	YC
Car Float	YCF
Cargo Semi-Submersible Barge	YCSS
Aircraft Transportation Lighter	YCV
Covered Lighter	YFN

Enclosure (4)

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Large Covered Lighter	YFNB
Lighter (Special purpose)	YFNX
Refrigerated Covered Lighter	YFRN
Range Tender	YFRT
Garbage Lighter	YGN
Gasoline Barge	YOGN
Fuel Oil Barge	YON
Oil Storage Barge	YOS
Sludge Removal Barge	YSR
Water Barge	YWN

e. Other Craft

(1) Self-propelled

Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle	DSRV
Deep Submergence Vehicle	DSV
Submersible Research Vehicle	NR
Miscellaneous Auxiliary Service Craft	YAG
Ferry Boat or Launch	YFB
Dredge	YM
Patrol Craft, Training	YP
Seaplane Wrecking Derrick	YSD
Torpedo Trials Craft	YTT

(2) Non-self-propelled

Barracks Craft	APL
Floating Crane	YD
Diving Tender	YDT
Dry Dock Companion Craft	YFND
Floating Power Barge	YFP
Salvage Lift Craft, Heavy	YHLC
Salvage Lift Craft, Light	YLC
Dredge	YMN
Gate Craft	YNG
Floating Pile Driver	YPD
Floating Workshop	YR
Repair and Berthing Barge	YRB
Repair, Berthing and Messing Barge	YRBM
Floating Dry Dock Workshop (Hull)	YRDH
Floating Dry Dock Workshop (Machine)	YRDM
Radiological Repair Barge	YRR
Salvage Craft Tender	YRST



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(3) Unclassified Miscellaneous

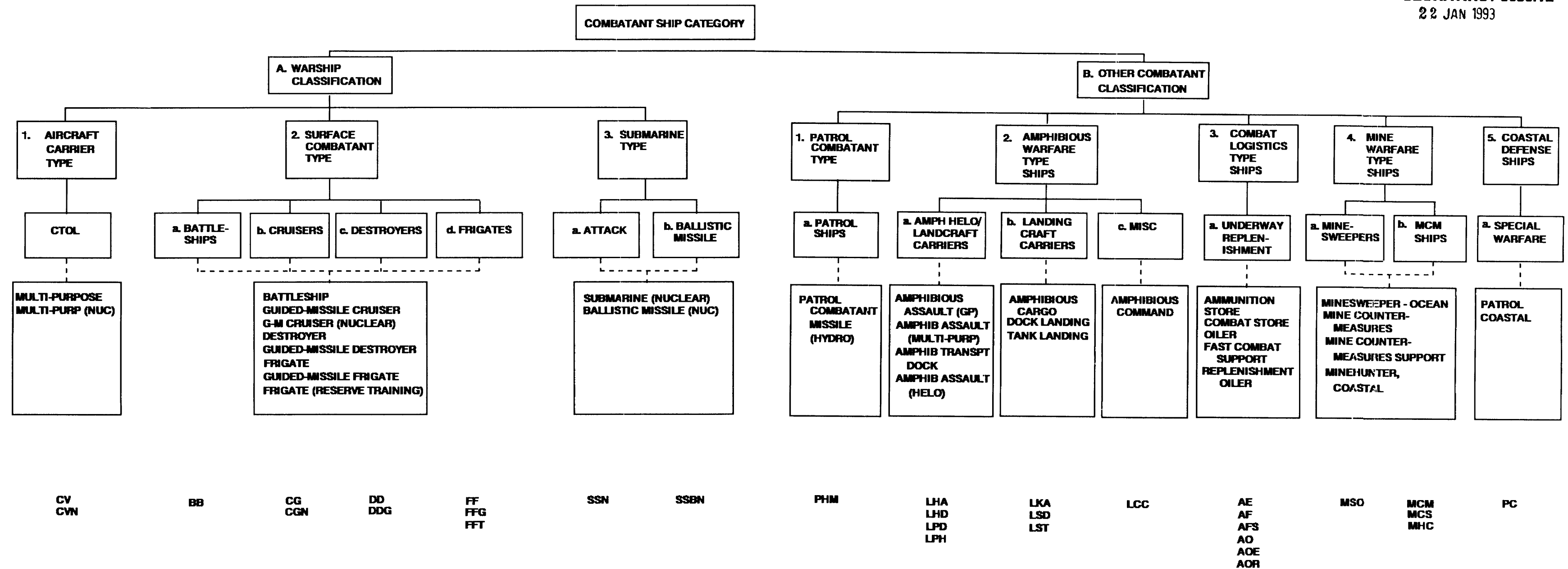
Unclassified Miscellaneous Unit

IX

# SHIP CATEGORIES

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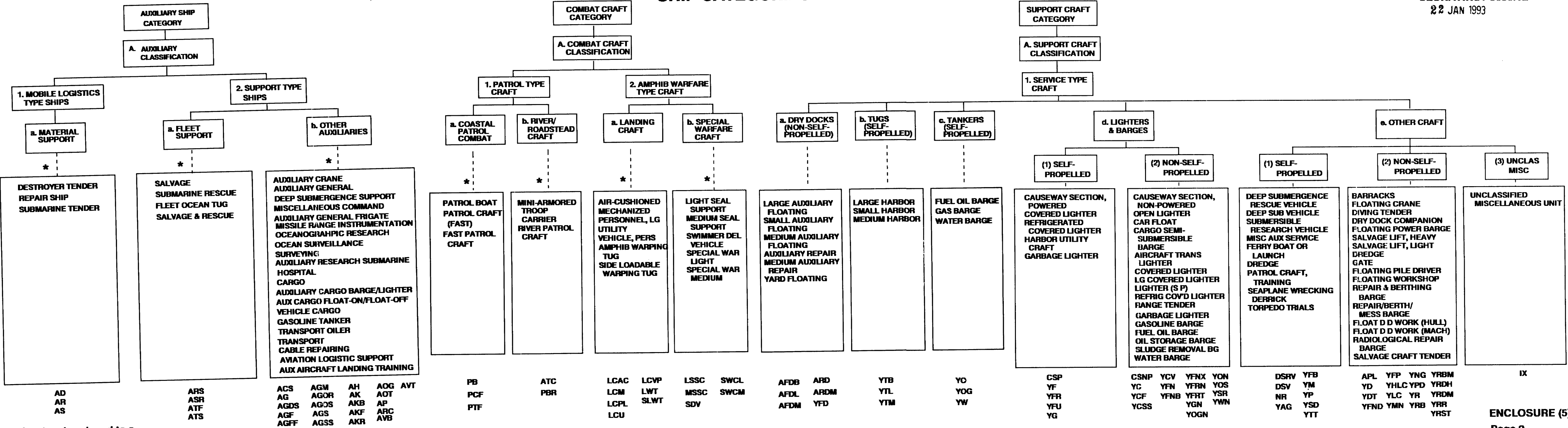
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ENCLOSURE (5)

SHIP CATEGORIES

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\* The above categories can be further defined and assigned to a sub category by the addition of one or more of the adjectives

SHIP CATEGORIES

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